Many small businesses often turn to services like Big Cartel or Wix to host and create their online store. These implementations usually satisfy a business's needs. But what if they don't? Migrating a webstore to a similar provider is a headache and might cause a business to end up in the same dissatisfied state. Creating a new website from scratch is even more troublesome, as the task requires a vast amount of knowledge pertaining to web design and development.

In this tutorial, I will provide instruction on how to add new pages and functionality to a Big Cartel website and how to get around the provided CSS framework without breaking the rest of said website.

PRODUCTS   CONTACT   JORP CREATIONS   CART

SK8 AND DESTROY
OH YES!!!!!
—
$75.00

READING IS A SLAM
DUNK
—
$750.00

TRIFECTA TOTE BAG
—
$12.00

TEAMWORK HOOD
—
$50.00

JADIENT HOOD
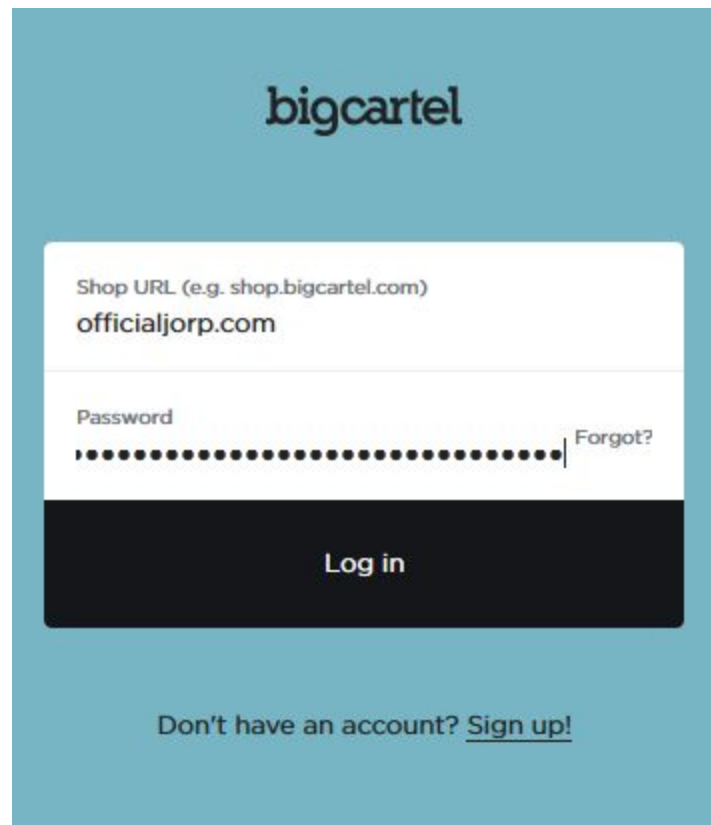
DEFAULT LOGO
CREWNECC

SKATEBOARDING OH
YES!!!!! CREWNECC

TEAMWORK TEE

It's no question that Big Cartel's provided CSS frameworks or "themes" provide an excellent user interface that is easy to use and aesthetically pleasing with no programming for the website owners. Above is my business's Big Cartel web store, a simple site that allows for the showcasing and purchasing of Jorp branded clothing and accessories.

LOGGING INTO THE ADMIN PROFILE

If you want to make any changes to your Big Cartel website you must first access the admin profile. To do this type in your shop URL and affix "/admin" to the end of said URL. My website's URL is officialjorp.com, so I would type "officialjorp.com/admin" in my browser.

Log in using your shop URL and Big Cartel account password. Once you are logged in, navigate to the account tab at the top of the page. From here you can optionally enable maintenance mode, a feature that will temporarily disable the website while you are making changes. I'm not going to enable maintenance mode, as the changes I'll be making are not critical to the website's functionality as a whole. From here, you'll want to click on the "Customize design" button.

Jorp

I like fishing and skateboarding and playing games with my friends and eating carrots and the summer and the ocean and pearls and shiny things

ⓘ

Edit profile   Log out

Your shop 👁

Maintenance mode ⚪

🔒 www.officialjorp.com

+ Add Google Analytics

Luna theme

Edit your shop info   ✏️   Customize design ›

ADDING A NEW PAGE

You should now be on a page displaying your website's homepage alongside some design options on the left side. To navigate to where you can add a page, click on the pages icon in the upper left corner.
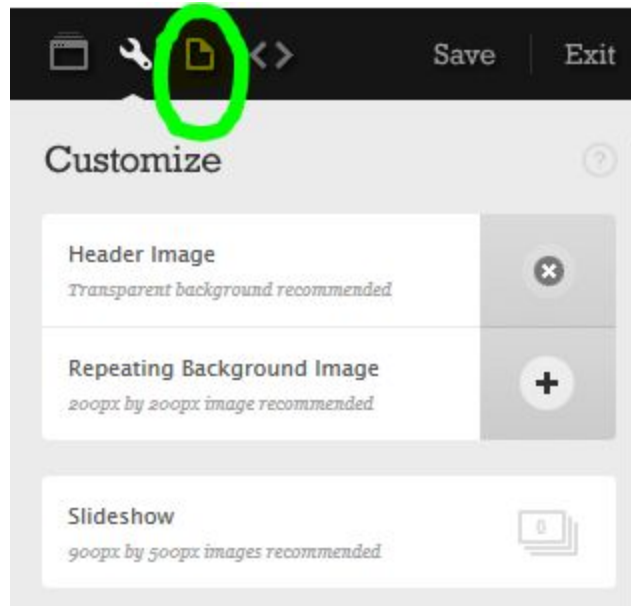
Click the plus button to add your desired page.
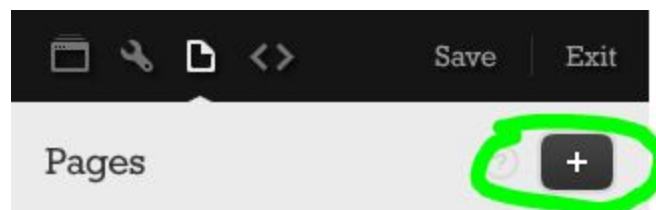
Give the page a name, I'm calling mine "Reading is a slam dunk" as my page will serve as an about page for the crewneck garment with that name.

After giving the page a name, make sure that the "use my store's layout" box is checked at the bottom left side of the page so that this page will utilize the CSS framework Big Cartel has provided for the rest of the website.

To see an updated page preview, click done in the

You are now free to add HTML or plaintext to the editor on the left and see the changes reflected in the website preview on the right. For the purposes of this tutorial we will not be focusing on adding the HTML to customize this page, instead we will deal with a common problem associated with adding new pages to a Big Cartel site.

CONFIGURING THE NAVIGATION BAR
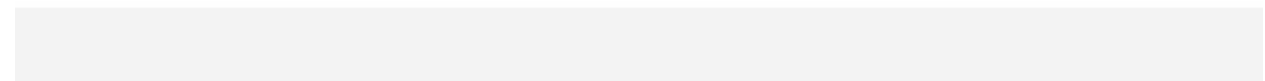
As you can see above, the new page has been reflected in my site's navigation bar. I don't want that! Don't worry, we can fix this issue by changing a few lines of code without needing to make any major changes to the CSS framework.

Navigate to and click on the advanced customization icon in the top left. It looks like this:
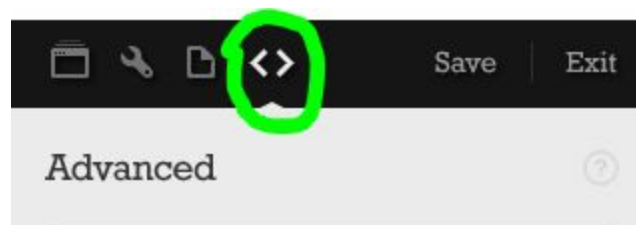
Now that we're in the advanced tab, navigate to the layout option in the column on the left side of the page.
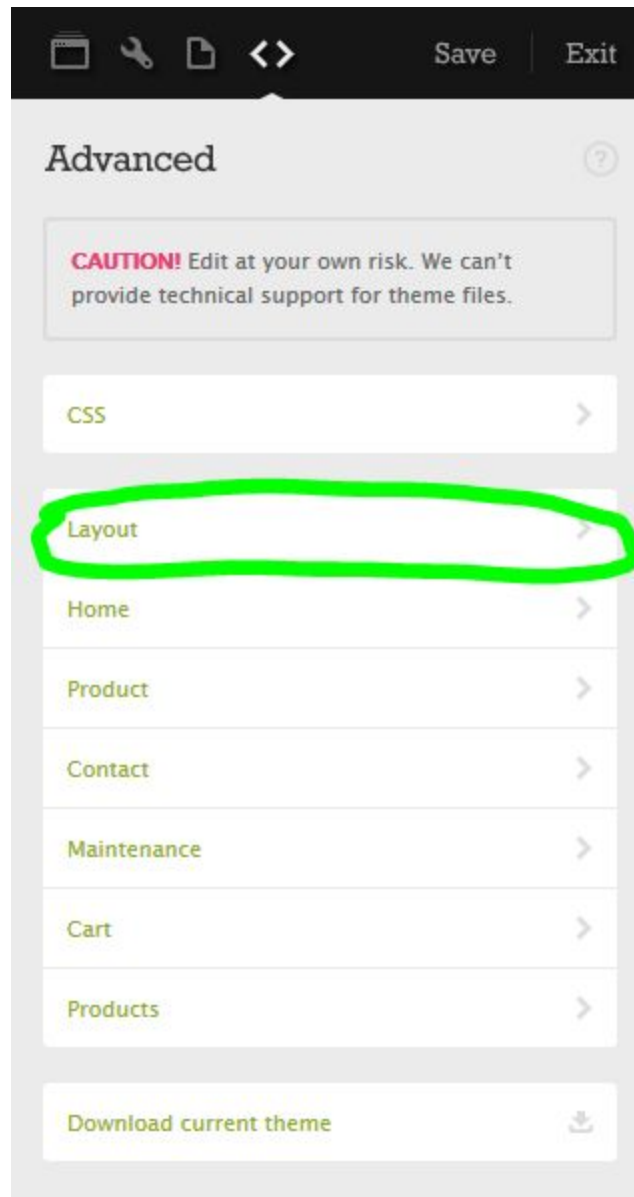
This should show you some HTML that Big Cartel has preconfigured for the layout of your website.

Click on the fullscreen icon in the bottom left. This makes it much easier to view and edit the HTML.

Now, you're going to want to navigate to the section of the HTML that controls the navigation bar. You can find it easier by using the find feature (crtl + F) and typing in "nav".

Here's what it should roughly look like, for now we only care about the highlighted part.

```
<div class="wrapper">
  <nav class="header-nav" role="navigation" aria-label="Main">
    <ul>
      <li{% if page.full_url contains '/products' or page.full_url contains '/product/' or page.full_url contains '/category/' or page.full_ur

      <!-- THIS IS THE CODE FOR THE ADDITIONAL PAGES BEING ADDED TO THE NAV BAR AT THE TOP
      -->
      {% for page in pages.all limit:theme.nav_items %}
        <li{% if page.full_url contains page.url %} class="selected"{% endif %}>{{ page | link_to }}</li>
      {% endfor %}

      <li{% if page.full_url contains '/contact' %} class="selected"{% endif %}><a href="/contact">Contact</a></li>
      <!--<li{% if page.full_url contains '/creations' %} class="selected"{% endif %}><a href="/jorp-creations">Jorp Creations</a></li> -->
      <li{% if page.full_url contains '/cart' %} class="selected"{% endif %}><a href="/cart">Cart</a></li>
    </ul>
  </nav>
```

The highlighted code causes any custom created pages to be added to the navigation bar. Comment this out by affixing "<!--" before the code and "-->" after the code.

Exit fullscreen mode by clicking the icon at the bottom of the page.

Click done to see that your page has been removed from the navigation bar!

PRODUCTS   CONTACT   **CART**

Jorp.

CART

This is great but now there is another issue. My custom page "Jorp Creations" is now missing from the navigation bar!

To fix this, go back to the navigation HTML we just changed.

```
<!-- THIS IS THE CODE FOR THE ADDITIONAL PAGES BEING ADDED TO THE NAV BAR AT THE TOP
{% for page in pages.all limit:theme.nav_items %}
  <li{% if page.full_url contains page.url %} class="selected"{% endif %}>{{ page | link_to }}</li>
{% endfor %}
-->

<li{% if page.full_url contains '/contact' %} class="selected"{% endif %}><a href="/contact">Contact</a></li>
<li{% if page.full_url contains '/creations' %} class="selected"{% endif %}><a href="/jorp-creations">Jorp Creations</a></li>
<li{% if page.full_url contains '/cart' %} class="selected"{% endif %}><a href="/cart">Cart</a></li>
```

I fixed the issue by adding the highlighted line of HTML under the HTML we commented out. To apply this fix to your page, change the '/creations' to a keyword that appears in the name of your added page that you actually want to display on the navigation bar.

Change the href attribute to link the navigation button to your page by typing the name of the page in lowercase characters, replacing spaces with hyphens. For example, if your page is called "Test Page Please ignore" you would type "/test-page-please-ignore" for the href attribute.

Finally, replace the "Jorp Creations" text at the end of the highlighted HTML with the name of your page to have it properly displayed in the navigation bar.
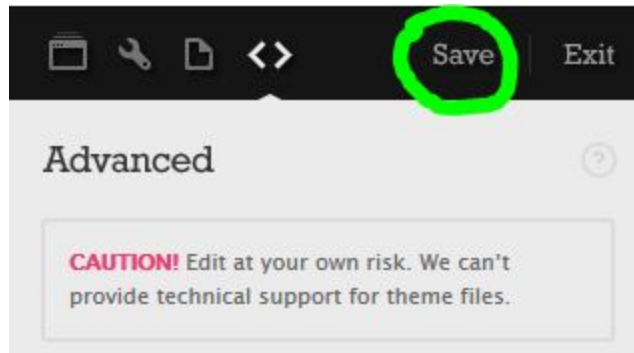
Exit fullscreen and click "done" like before.

Success! You should now see the page correctly displaying on the navigation bar in the preview.

Now all that is left to do is save your changes and disable maintenance mode (if you enabled it in the first place).

Now navigate to your website in the browser and check that everything is functioning properly.

If the buttons work as they should, you are done! You've successfully added a new page, removed it from the navigation bar, and added your pre-existing custom pages back onto the navigation bar, all whilst preserving the integrity of Big Cartel's provided CSS framework.